BRITISH COLUMBIA
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BCStats

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca *Issue: 10-14* *April 9, 2010*

- **Unemployment rate increases to 7.9% in March as job growth stalls**
- **Value of building permits drops 3.2% in February**
- **One in four Canadians don't get enough Vitamin C in their diets**

Labour Force

- **British Columbia's unemployment rate increased to 7.9% (*seasonally adjusted*) in March, as job growth in the province stalled.** Employment, which had increased significantly in the previous two months, was virtually unchanged in March. At the same time, the number of people who were either working or looking for work inched up 0.1%.

  Employment in the goods sector jumped 3.4% in March, bouncing back from a 2.8% decline in the previous month. Although there were fewer jobs in manufacturing (-0.6%), the number of people working in construction advanced 1.4%. Other goods-producing industries continued to show volatility, with agriculture (+6.0%), forestry, fishing & mining (+21.8%) and utilities (+26.7%) rebounding from large declines in February. Large month-to-month changes in employment are quite common in these industries.

  Service-sector employers pared down their workforce 0.8%. Job losses were widespread, with finance, insurance and real estate shedding 11.3% of its workers, while management & administration (-5.4%) and transportation & warehousing (-5.2%) also cut back. Employment in wholesale & retail trade was virtually unchanged (+0.1%)

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Job losses were concentrated in the private sector, where employment fell 0.5% (*seasonally adjusted*) in March.** The number of public sector jobs rose 0.2%, while self employment increased (+1.2%) for the first time since October.

  Full-time employment fell 0.7% but there were 2.5% more people with part-time jobs.

  The youth unemployment rate climbed back up to 13.5% while the jobless rate for more experienced workers (aged 25 and over) remained unchanged at 6.9%.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **In the regions, unemployment rates ranged from 4.4% (*3-month moving average, unadjusted*) in Northeast to 11.5% in North Coast/Nechako.** Cariboo (10.3%) and Kootenay (10.6%) also recorded double-digit unemployment rates in March.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **The unemployment rate for BC's off-reserve Aboriginal population was 15.4% (*3-month moving average, unadjusted*), nearly twice the average (7.9%) for non-Aboriginals.**

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Among landed immigrants living in BC, jobless rates were lowest (8.9%) for those who had been in Canada more than 10 years.** The rate was 9.3% for more recent immigrants (those who came to Canada between 5 and 10 years ago) and 11.8% for those who had been in Canada five years or less. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Canada's unemployment rate was unchanged at 8.2% (*seasonally adjusted*) in March.** Although BC, Alberta and Saskatchewan saw jobless rates rise last month, the four western provinces continued to post the lowest unemployment rates in the country. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

The Economy

- **The value of building permits issued by**

Report **Provincial Export Comparison**

Did you know...

Roughly 16% of (presumably human) Canadians believe that aliens live hidden among us. That figure jumps to nearly half in India (45%) and China (42%).

Data Source: Ipsos & Reuters News

British Columbia municipalities slid 3.2% lower (*seasonally adjusted*) in February. An increase in the non-residential sector (+4.7%), was offset by a 5.6% decline in the value of permits issued for residential projects. Nationally, the value of building permits dipped slightly (-0.5%) as a drop in residential intentions (-7.5%) offset a 16.0% increase in non-residential permits. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Coal production in British Columbia rose 48.3% (year-over-year) to 1.96 million tonnes in January.** About 96% of BC's monthly coal production is used in metallurgical processes, ultimately to make steel. The remainder (roughly 4%) is used to generate heat for industry or for electricity generation.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

Performing Arts

- **In 2008, British Columbia's live performing arts industry experienced a slight drop in operating profit margins to 17.2%, down from 18.7% in the previous year.** While operating revenues in the industry expanded sharply (+13.8%) during the year, this increase was overshadowed by an even larger jump in total operating expenses (+15.8%). Nationally, the performing arts industry saw profit margins rise slightly from 6.6% in 2007 to 6.8% in 2008. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Health

- **Nearly one-quarter (23%) of Canadians have a diet that is insufficient to meet recommended intake levels of vitamin C[1].** While fewer than 3% of children (aged 13 years and under) were counted among those that did not receive adequate levels of vitamin C, roughly 10% of boys and 8% of girls aged 14 to 18 years fell short of recommended levels. The adult population (aged 19 years and over), was the most likely to be lacking in vitamin C—men more so than women. Other than age, household income was a determining factor as those in the upper quintile in terms of income were less likely (20%) to have low dietary vitamin C intake levels than those in the bottom quintile (25%). Other important characteristics included education, level of physical activity, servings of fruits and vegetables consumed per day, and whether or not someone was a smoker.

Quebecers were significantly less likely (18%) to have insufficient dietary levels of vitamin C than were other Canadians. Residents of British Columbia (21%), Ontario (22%), Saskatchewan (24%) and Alberta (25%) had dietary vitamin C intake levels that were similar to the national average. However, nearly a third of people living in New Brunswick (31%) and Newfoundland & Labrador (30%) had diets that provided insufficient levels of vitamin C. *Data Source: S.C. Cat. # 82-003-XPE*

Minimum Wage

- **In 2009, roughly 796,000 people worked at or below their province's minimum wage in Canada.** Not surprisingly, given its size relative to the economy as a whole, nearly all (92%) of Canada's minimum wage earners were concentrated in the country's service-producing sector. More than one in five (22%) of those employed in accommodation & food services were in a minimum wage job. Trade also had a significant number of workers earning minimum wage with one in eight (12%) making bottom dollar. In the goods sector, only agriculture, where farm workers are sometimes paid in room and board in lieu of higher wages, had a high proportion (14%) of employees working at or below a minimum wage. In general, minimum wage earners are most likely to be employed in sectors where jobs require little in the way of specialized training, education or work experience.

Data Source: S.C. Cat. # 75-001-X

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[1] Based on intake levels that differ by age, sex and smoking habits.

For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

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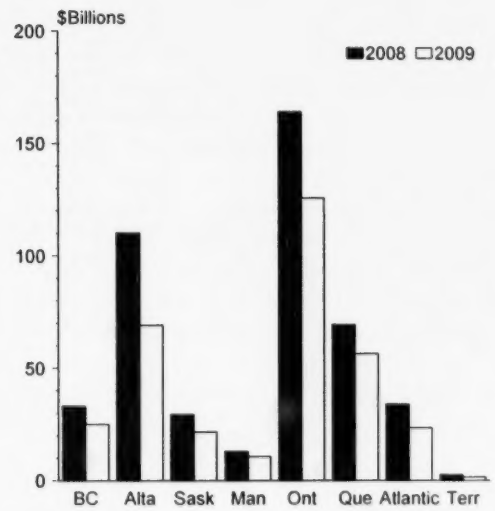
originally published in
Exports Issue 09-12

Provincial Export Comparison

The economic downturn did not affect all of Canada's provinces and territories equally in 2009, but in terms of merchandise exports, all regions of the country experienced a drop in the value of goods exported. The decline was sharper in some provinces than in others, but each province contributed to the 27% slump in Canadian exports.

All regions of the country experienced a drop in the value of exports in 2009

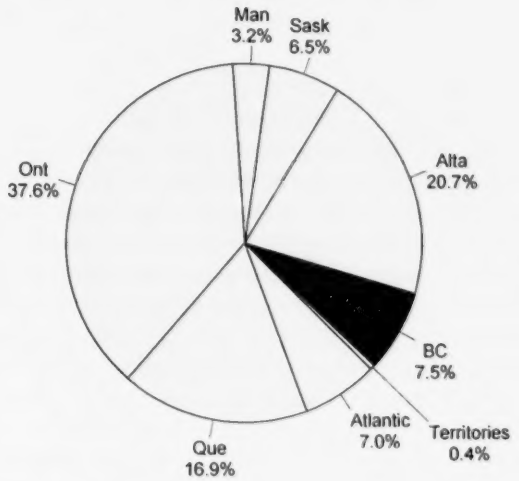


Source: Statistics Canada

At 24%, the drop in BC's goods exports was slightly below the national average. Prince Edward Island fared best among the provinces with exports edging down only 2%, while Newfoundland and Labrador saw the largest decline, with merchandise exports falling 42%.

Ontario, Canada's largest province and manufacturing hub, is by far the largest source of exports from Canada, with almost 38% of the nation's exported goods originating in that province in 2009. Alberta, with its large oil reserves, ranked second with almost 21% of Canadian exports, followed by Quebec (17%). British Columbia ranked fourth among the provinces in 2009 as a source for exports from Canada, with just under 8% of goods shipped from the country originating in BC. That was more than the four Atlantic Provinces and three Territories put together.

BC ranked fourth in the country in terms of the share of Canada's exports in 2009



Source: Statistics Canada

There are substantial differences in the export profiles of Canada's provinces, both in terms of the types of goods exported, as well as the ultimate destination of those exports. These differences are a reflection of the economic structure, the geography and the geology of the individual provinces.

For example, Ontario and Quebec both have large manufacturing centres and this is reflected in the types of goods exported from those provinces. Manufactured goods are the top exports from those provinces, while for most of the remainder of the country, resource products top the list.

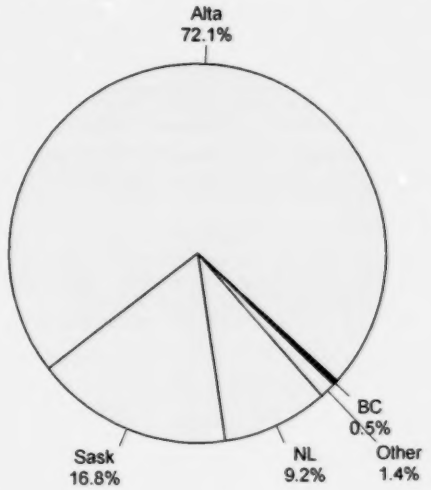
In Ontario, motor vehicles and motor vehicle parts are by far the leading merchandise export, comprising more than a quarter of the province's total exports (28%). Gold and medicaments are also significant exports from Ontario.

With the presence of Bombardier, it is not all that surprising that Quebec's top exports are aircraft and aircraft parts, including turbo-jets and turbo-propellers. Aluminum products rank second in terms of commodity shipments from Quebec as the wealth of hydro power available to manufacturers in that province has spawned a number of aluminum producers (that is, since aluminum production requires a great deal of energy).

In contrast to Canada's two largest provinces, British Columbia's top commodity exports consist mainly of resource-based goods. In 2008 and 2009, coal was the province's top export, supplanting lumber, which had ruled the roost previously. However, forest sector products are still a mainstay of BC's commodity exports, with wood, pulp and paper products all ranking among the top exports from the province. Natural gas is another major export product from BC.

Energy products also rank highly among several other provinces. In fact, crude petroleum was the top export for three provinces in 2009 and ranked first for the country as a whole as well. Alberta was the top supplier of not only crude petroleum oil, but also natural gas. In fact, 72% of Canada's crude oil exports and just under 82% of the country's natural gas exports originated in Alberta. Saskatchewan was another large supplier of crude oil, with about 17% of Canada's crude oil exports sourced from that province. Newfoundland and Labrador was the source of 9% of Canadian crude oil exports. The other provinces and territories combined accounted for less than 2% of Canada's crude oil exports.

Most of the crude petroleum exported from Canada in 2009 originated in just three provinces, with the large majority coming from Alberta



Source: Statistics Canada

In the Prairie Provinces of Saskatchewan and Manitoba, agricultural products were important exports. Although crude petroleum was the top export from Saskatchewan, potash (which is used as a fertilizer) and wheat were also important export goods. Wheat was the top commodity export from Manitoba, followed by rape and colza seeds.

In the Atlantic Provinces, there was a fair variety in the types of goods exported. In Newfoundland and Labrador, in addition to crude petroleum, petroleum oils other than crude and iron ores and concentrates were significant exports. In New Brunswick, petroleum oils other than crude were the main commodity shipment from that province. In Prince Edward Island, a province famous for its potatoes, it is not surprising that spuds ranked first as an export, but turbo-jets and turbo-propellers ranked second, followed by lobsters. Lobsters were also a top export of Nova Scotia, but they ranked second to rubber tires and just ahead of natural gas. Nova Scotia is home to several large tire manufacturing facilities.

In the Territories, the mining sector plays a large role in goods exports. In the Northwest Territories, about 97% of all commodity exports are comprised of diamonds. In Yukon, copper ores and concentrates represent about 94% of the region's merchandise exports. Nunavut has a much more diverse range of exports, with frozen fish and original sculptures and statuary topping the list in 2009.

While the type of good exported may play some role in the provincial variation in the destination of exports, it seems that geography plays an even larger part. The United States was the top destination for every province and territory (with the exception of the Northwest Territories, which ships its diamonds mainly to Great Britain and Belgium), but after the US, there is somewhat of a bias towards Asia for the western provinces and Europe for the eastern provinces.

China and Japan in particular are among the top destinations for exports for the provinces west of Ontario. China is also a significant destination for some provinces in eastern Canada, but European destinations are much more prevalent for provinces east of Manitoba, with the United Kingdom and Germany standing out in particular.

Geography also plays a large role in the mode of transport of exported goods. Those provinces on the coast tend to transport mainly over water, while transport by truck is the main mode of transport for inland provinces. In the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, air transport is the preferred mode, owing mainly to their remote location and, for the Northwest Territories, at least, to the nature of the goods being transported.

There are a couple of exceptions, such as Saskatchewan, where the main mode of transport is over water. This may seem strange given that the province is landlocked, but the reason is that the mode of transport is measured as that used when the good exits the country. Saskatchewan ships a large percentage of its exports over rail to the Port of Vancouver, where it is subsequently loaded onto a boat for transport to its ultimate destination.

While trade with the rest of the world is usually the main focus of analysis, there is also a substantial amount of trade between provinces[1]. In 2008, Canada's overall trade balance (goods and services) was in deficit by over $25 billion. Of the 13 provinces and territories, only five had an overall trade surplus. Alberta had the largest surplus, at $54 billion, most of which was with other countries ($50 billion). It was also one of only three provinces to have a trade surplus with other provinces. Ontario and Newfoundland and Labrador were the other two provinces to export more to the rest of Canada than they imported from other provinces and territories. In Ontario's case, the more than $27 billion interprovincial trade surplus was more than enough to offset the province's $22 billion deficit with the rest of the world. Like Alberta, Newfoundland and Labrador had surpluses with both the rest of Canada and the rest of the world. The only other provinces and territories to have an overall trade surplus were Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories, both of which had large enough international trade surpluses to offset interprovincial deficits.

British Columbia had an overall trade deficit of just under $14 billion in 2008. Most of that deficit was in trade with other provinces (over $11 billion), although BC also had a trade deficit with other countries. Trade in goods was the source of much of the deficit as the province's balance of trade in services was only marginally in a def-

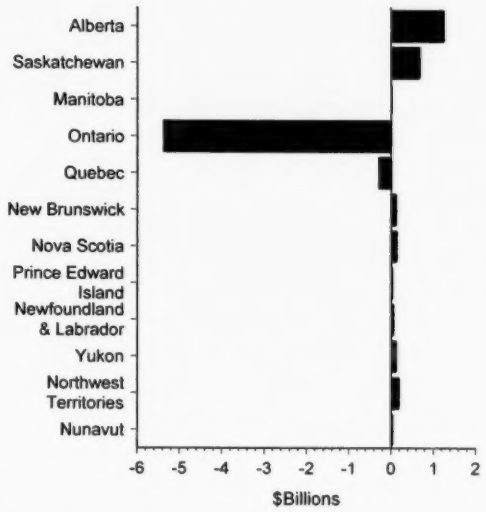
[1] Note that data on interprovincial trade are available from Canada's National Accounts; however, the data are on a Balance of Payments basis, which differs from the Customs-based data that are reported elsewhere in this document. To calculate provincial balance of trade figures, Balance of Payments data must be used, such that commodity export figures used from here on will not match export figures elsewhere in this report. The latest available data from this source are for 2008.

icit position. In fact, BC's only trade surplus was in trade in services with other countries.

BC's interprovincial trade deficit is concentrated mainly with Ontario. In 2006, the last year for which comparative data by province are available, BC had a trade deficit with only two provinces: Ontario and Quebec. British Columbia recorded a trade surplus with every other province and territory in 2006.

Given the size and diversity of Canada, it is not surprising that there is such a variety in trade patterns among the provinces and territories, but one thing they do have in common is that trade remains an important part of their respective economies.

British Columbia had a trade surplus with every province except Ontario and Quebec in 2006



Source: Statistics Canada

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also on the Internet at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca or choose RSS

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Jan1/2010	% change on one year ago
BC	4,494.2	1.6
Canada	33,930.8	1.2
GDP and INCOME (Revised Nov 9)		
(BC - at market prices)	2008	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	197,931	3.3
GDP *($ 2002 millions)*	164,520	0.0
GDP *($ 2002 per Capita) (reflects revised pop)*	37,529	-1.7
Personal Disposable Income *($ 2002 per Capita)*	25,931	3.2
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Jan 2010	2,850	4.2
Merchandise Exports - Jan 2010	2,180	0.3
Retail Sales - Jan 2010	4,634	0.0
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on	12-month avg
(all items - Feb 2010)	one year ago	% change
BC	1.2	-0.1
Vancouver	1.2	0.0
Victoria	1.0	0.0
Canada	1.6	0.4
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		
(seasonally adjusted)	Mar 2010	% change on prev. month
Labour Force - BC	2,485	0.1
Employed - BC	2,290	0.0
Unemployed - BC	195	1.8
		Feb 2010
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	7.9	7.7
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	8.2	8.2
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Apr 7/2010	Apr 8/2009
Prime Business Rate	2.25	2.50
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.60	4.20
- 5 year	5.85	5.45
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Apr 7/2010	Apr 8/2009
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	1.0030	1.2354
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	0.9949	0.8082
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Mar 2010	% change on one year ago
BC	821.18	3.9
Canada	813.37	2.2

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

British Columbia Wage & Salary Survey

In 2009, the first-ever Wage and Salary Survey was completed by the BC Government. This survey provides up-to-date wage and salary information on part-time and full-time wages, hours of work, hiring difficulties, and vacancies for 121 of the province's most common occupations. In B.C.'s three largest economic regions (Vancouver Island/Coast, Mainland/Southwest, and Thompson/Okanagan), the top 100 occupations were targeted, and in the five remaining regions (Kootenay, Cariboo, North Coast, Nechako, and Northeast), the top 35 occupations were targeted.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/lss/labour/wage/

Historical Census Profiles

We have added 1986 Census Profiles to our site. This series of profiles is for development regions, regional districts, municipalities, and unincorporated areas. Recently we added detailed profiles for development regions, regional districts, municipalities, unincorporated areas and Indian reserves from the 1996 and 1991 censuses. Registration is required for access.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/census.asp

Aboriginal Peoples Profiles - BC

Province-level profiles have been added to this series. These profiles provide comparisons of the socio-economic conditions of the Aboriginal populations as well as profiles of Aboriginal groups such as First Nations, Métis, and Status Indians using data from the 2006 Census.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/cen01/abor/ap_main.asp

Released this week by BC Stats

- Tourism Sector Monitor, March 2010
- Labour Force Statistics, February 2010

Next week

- Earnings and Employment Trends, Feb. 2010
- Exports, February2010

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